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Wednesday
SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

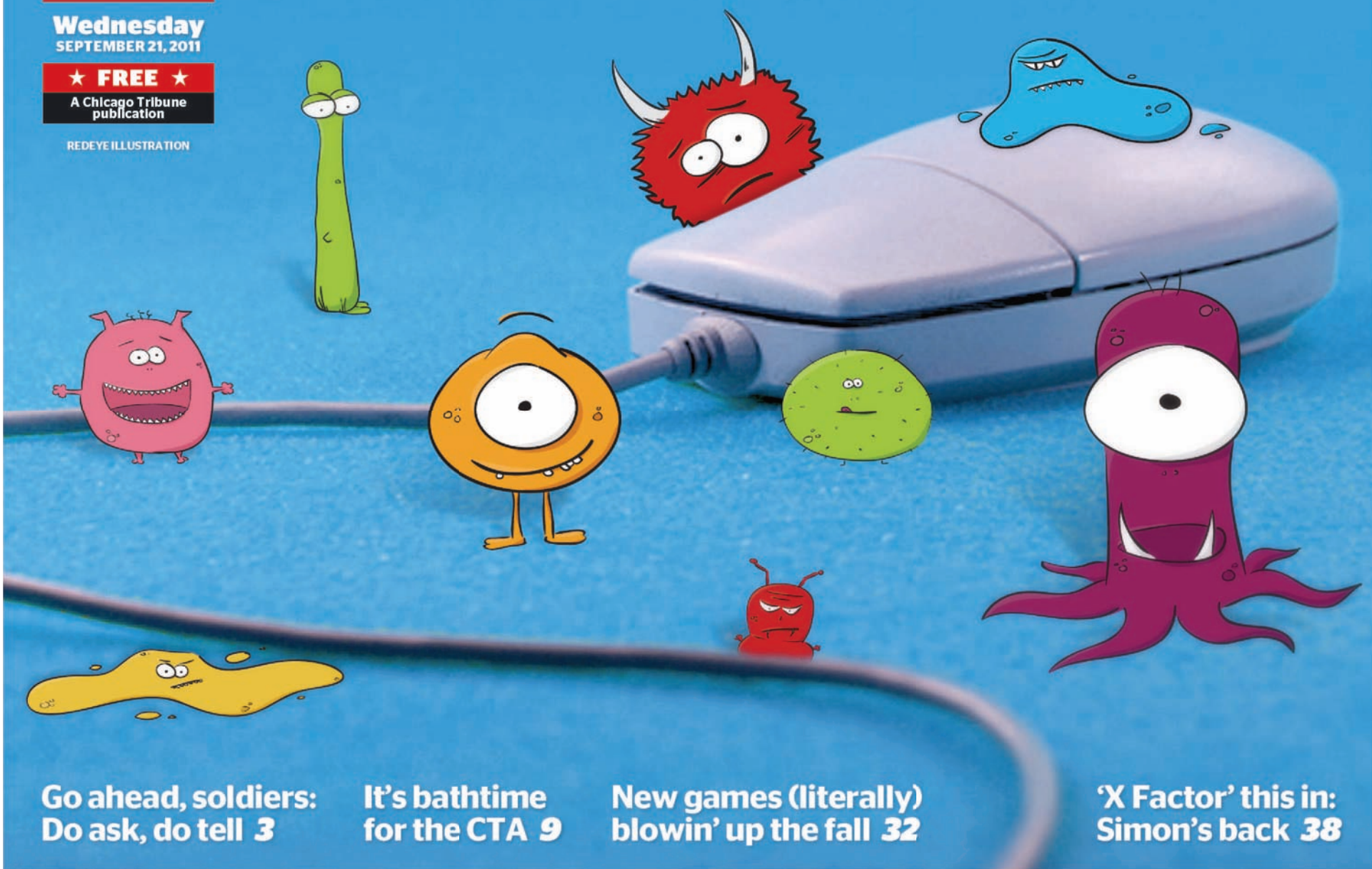
★ FREE ★

A Chicago Tribune
publication

REDEYE ILLUSTRATION

cubicle cooties

Your snack break is totally NSFW—say hello
to the critters living on your desk **pages 6-7**



Go ahead, soldiers:
Do ask, do tell **3**

It's bathtime
for the CTA **9**

New games (literally)
blowin' up the fall **32**

'X Factor' this in:
Simon's back **38**

BY MARGARET SMITH | METROMIX@TRIBUNE.COM » GET MORE EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYETCHICAGO.COM

EAT

FREE

SOUTHERN STYLE

La Colombe 955 W. Randolph St. 312-733-0707

Take a trip to the big easy Wednesday morning with free coffee and beignets from this West Loop independent coffeehouse. Co-founders and owners Todd Carmichael and Jean Philippe Iberti hand out free samples of their new Louisiana Blend with beignets from The Pump Room's pastry chef, Kady Yon. Now where are the free hurricane drinks? 8 a.m.

DO

THE ART OF CONVERSATION

Apple Store

FREE 801 W. North Ave. 312-777-4200

Join Fear No ART host Elysabeth Alfano for an in-depth talk with artist Jeff Zimmerman, whose mural "You Know What You Should Do" runs parallel to the Lakefront Trail at Oak Street Beach. The making of the "Fear No ART" series also will be discussed, with a Q&A from Zimmerman afterward. 7 p.m.



SCIENCE OF SOUND Lincoln Hall

2424 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-525-2501

Rock out with local new wave band Big Science at a benefit concert in remembrance of Jennifer Gustafson, a Hanover

Park resident who was murdered in late August. The event includes a silent art auction and raffle, with additional performances by Siderunners, Scott Lucas and the Married Man, US/UK, The Blind Stagers and others. All proceeds go to the Jennifer Gustafson Memorial Fund. 6:30 p.m. \$10 suggested donation.



DRINK

STORY TIME

Black Rock 3614 N. Damen Ave. 773-348-4044

Listen to stories from local writers at Story Lab Chicago's monthly reading while enjoying \$5 burgers and \$3.50 microbrews. 7:30 p.m. No cover.



LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

Flat Rock Tavern 2746 N. Lincoln Ave. 312-970-1381

Let your inner 10-year-old shine at a free skeeball tournament sponsored by The Chicago Skeeball League. Compete in teams of two to show off your arcade skills while munching on half-price appetizers and guzzling \$3 PBR pints. The winning pair walks home with Chicago Bears tickets and bragging rights. 6:30-9:30 p.m. No cover.

REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY

Grab your favorite Asian-inspired buns at Wow Bao's new Loop location, which opened Tuesday. 225 N. Michigan Ave. 312-226-2299



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ONE PILOT'S STORY

A man who until now had been known as J.D. Smith had been at the forefront of pushing for the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." He is co-founder and co-director of a group called OutServe, which bills itself as the Association of Actively Serving LGBT Military Personnel.

As an active-duty service member, he would only speak to the media under a pseudonym. Under the new rules, his real identity can be revealed, and he announced at a news conference Tuesday that he is 1st Lt. Josh Seefried, an airman serving on a base in New Jersey.

Until now, Seefried said, he had worried every day that he could lose his military career if it became known he was gay.

"Today and every day I can go back into work with that burden lifted off my shoulders and not have to worry about it any more," he said. Concerns of a possible hostile reaction from heterosexual colleagues were unfounded, Seefried said, adding that "no one's going hurt us when we go back to our units."

Others joined him. OutServe published a new edition Tuesday called the "Repeal Issue." It was available on some military bases around the world and included photos of 101 active service members openly stating they are gay. The OutServe magazine also is distributed online.

"Now we are stepping forward, to a new day, a new life," wrote Air Force Staff Sgt. Jonathan Mills. "A life of openness, integrity, of honor. At last, our country has accepted us—not for who we love or how we love but who we are."

The magazine said its photo essay on 101 people serving in the military represented just a portion of the approximately 70,000 "currently serving" lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender military personnel.



GETTY IMAGES FILE

G-DAY

'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' dismissed from duty

Reuters, CNN

WASHINGTON President Obama hailed the end of the policy banning gays from serving openly in the military, saying its official demise Tuesday marked a key step toward fulfilling America's founding ideals.

"Today, the discriminatory law known as 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is finally and formally repealed," Obama said in a statement released by the White House. "As of today, patriotic Americans in uniform will no longer have to lie about who they are in order to serve the country they love."

Here's a look at the issue in all its angles.

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

The Pentagon sent out a memo Tuesday noting that the Defense Department already has certified that ending the policy would not harm military readiness, unit cohesion or recruiting and retention of service members.

"Effective today, statements about sexual orientation or lawful acts of homosexual conduct will not be considered as a bar to military service," or admission to the military academies and other programs, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Clifford Stanley wrote in the memo.

"All Service members are to treat one another with dignity and respect regardless of sexual orientation," Stanley wrote, warning that "harassment or abuse based on sexual orientation" would not be tolerated in the military.

HISTORY LESSON

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" had allowed gay men and women to serve in the military only if they kept their sexual orientation a secret. They faced the threat of being kicked out of the military under the law if they were open about being homosexual.

Obama in December signed legislation to repeal the policy known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which had been passed by Congress and signed into law in 1993 under then-President Bill Clinton.

14,500

Under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, more than 14,500 U.S. service members were thrown out of the military since it went into effect in 1993, according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

May the Force be with 2011



Scott Bolohan

» redeye@tribune.com

The "Star Wars" Blu-ray set was released last week, making me wish I could live in George Lucas' revisionary world—complete with a virtual time machine.

Think of all the possibilities. All of my regrets could not only be eliminated, but greatly enhanced.

For example, when I was in Tangier, instead of being too

shy to play soccer on the beach when the Moroccan kids asked me to join, I could have played—with Darth Vader screaming "Noooooooo!" when the other team scored.

Or in college, I could have picked a more profitable major all while making more than a handful of friends and taken Second City classes—with an extended blinking Ewok celebration when I graduated.

And instead of being distant and inattentive, I could have lived in the same state as my ex and done all sorts of cute things for her—while ghost Hayden Christensen nodded approvingly.

Unfortunately, we don't all have the biggest movie franchise ever at our disposal to tinker with and re-release.

It seems like everyone is trying to live in a time that is anything but right now. Just look at TV, where "Mad Men" cleaned up at the Emmys and two more period TV shows, "Pan Am" and "The Playboy Club," are launching this season. Or in movies, where Woody Allen's "Midnight in Paris" was his most successful film ever and basically every other movie

this summer was a sequel. Right now, what used to be "in" is what's "in."

And I'm no different. I spend a lot of time daydreaming about living in Bob Dylan's Greenwich Village or Al Capone's Chicago. I plan trips around visiting places where things happened decades ago. I don't think there's a coffee shop in the world Ernest Hemingway had a cappuccino in that I haven't as well.

While there's nothing wrong with having an appreciation for the past, there is something wrong with ignoring the present. I suppose it's only natural we try to remember better times when we live in a relatively not-awesome time. But then I wonder if it's a not-awesome time only because we accept it for being unawesome and don't make the most of it.

And this is a major problem.

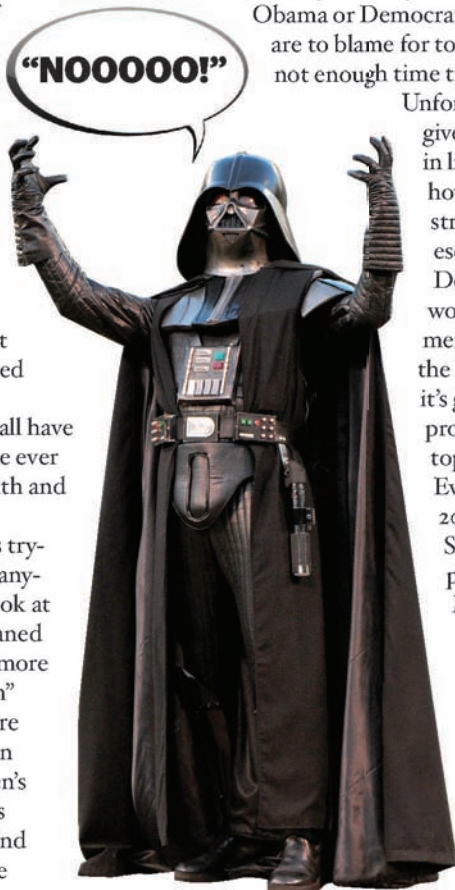
History is there for us to learn from, not for us to live in. We spend too much time discussing if George W. Bush or President Obama or Democrats or Republicans are to blame for today's problems and not enough time trying to fix them.

Unfortunately, we are given only one chance in life. And no matter how much you think a strange vertical Saturnesque ring around the Death Star exploding would be an improvement, in real life, once the Death Star explodes, it's gone. Although 2011 probably isn't going to top anyone's Best Year Ever list, it's the only 2011 we'll ever have.

Same goes for 2012 and presumably 2013 (if the Mayans were wrong).

While it's tempting to long for the past, "Star Wars" has proven the original is always best.

SCOTT BOLOHAN IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



Mayor Emanuel jokes with a rider Tuesday while on the Blue Line. CHRIS WALKER/TRIBUNE

Clean it up, CTA

Mayor Emanuel announced Tuesday a "renewal" effort for CTA stations. We asked readers for their thoughts on news of the first eight stations to get attention (full story on [Page 9](#)).

t how about we get the CTA to run on schedule [before] we worry about the stations being clean? — [@mariannaurelio](#)

f All the red line stations are nasty. Blue line ones are creepy. And pretty much all station elevators smell like pee, so that could be freshened up and, I don't know, install cameras — [Emily Anne](#)

t Can't believe the Wilson stop isn't in that list — [@daveyakir](#)

t List of #cta stops getting cleaned first is sad. Halsted and 43rd are palaces compared to Argyle and Wilson — [@bethany_lang](#)

t No Wilson? Ridiculous. — [@kathrynschwartz](#)

t How is the sheridan stop not on this list, its about [to] fall down. — [@matt_parris](#)

Save Ferris — at Wrigley



Saaawing batter! "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" will be screened Oct. 1 at Wrigley Field. Thoughts? Anyone? Bueller?

f That is by far the most stupid thing I have ever heard of. Cub fans will love it! — [Unc Freddy](#)

t Wait, we have to pay to watch an 80s movie and sit in grass? Lawdy — [@acpiller](#)

f John Candy's "Only the Lonely" should be played at Comiskey. If you've seen the movie, you know why. — [Vince LiFonti](#)

f Just watched the "Roast of Charlie Sheen," and totally in the mood to see him in "Bueller's day off". His first line: "Drugs?" How fitting. — [Dayna Fields](#)

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BUSINESS
OF FOOD

Most workplaces have a refrigerator and microwave available to employees.

67%
say they store their lunch
in the refrigerator



ONE IN FIVE
say they don't know if the
office microwave ever gets
cleaned



49%
of people let perishable food
sit out for 3-plus hours, at
which point it can begin to
spoil

Dirty desks!

**Want some keyboard critters with that sandwich?
Eating on the job can be hazardous to your health**

Tribune Newspapers

The last time you wiped down your desk and shook crumbs from your keyboard was—yep, a year ago, when you knocked over a latte while munching a turkey croissant sandwich. Or was it after crunching through that bag of Cheetos? That's not good news if you're one of the 83 percent of Americans who eat at their desks, according to a recent survey.

Whether you're eating lunch (62 percent), snacking (50 percent), eating breakfast (27 percent) or dinner (4 percent), desks and all the surfaces (keyboard, mouse, phone) can get pretty funky (translation: germy).

That's not a good thing if you're aiming to stay healthy. Don't believe it? That survey, dubbed the Desktop Dining Survey, found only 36 percent of respondents cleaned their work areas (desktop, keyboard, mouse) weekly. Worse than that? Just 64 percent do so once a month or less. And should you be invited to dine at another's cubicle, note this: 45 percent of men rarely or never clean their work area compared with 30 percent of women.

"For many people, multitasking through lunch is part of the average workday," said Toby

EATING HABITS OF THE DESK-BOUND

83%

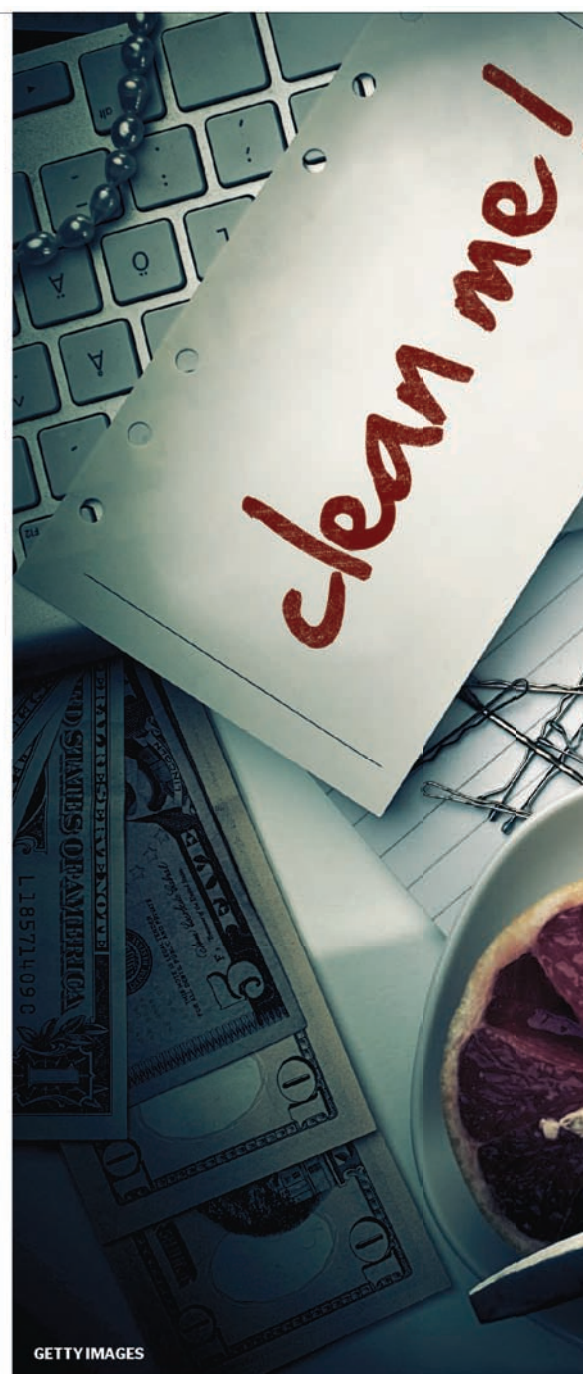
of Americans eat at their desk

Smithson, an American Dietetic Association spokesperson and registered dietitian, in a release on the survey. "While shorter lunch hours may result in getting more accomplished, they could also be causing workers to log additional sick days,

as desktops hide bacteria that can lead to foodborne illness."

Wait, wait. Don't turn away. Here's the really scary part: At the University of Arizona, a 2007 study found that the average desktop has 100 times more bacteria than a kitchen table and 400 times more than the average toilet seat.

"Desks are really bacteria cafeterias," said Charles Gerba, a microbiologist who's studied dirty desks, in a U of A press release several years ago. "They're breakfast buffets, lunch



tables and snack bars, as we spend more and more hours at the office."

"Treat your desktop like you would your kitchen table and counters at home," Smithson said. "Clean all surfaces, whether at home or work, before you prepare or eat food on them."

And wash your hands! The Desktop Dining Survey found only half of Americans say they al-

EAT BREAKFAST

27%



EAT LUNCH

62%





ways wash their hands before eating lunch.

"The key to preventing foodborne illness is food handling from start to finish," Smithson emailed Lunch Box. Keep things clean (your hands, eating surfaces, the food), watch the time ("Do not keep foods less than 2 hours outside of proper temperature") and make sure foods either are kept below 40 degrees or heated above 140 degrees.

The Desktop Dining Survey was conducted in April by HealthFocus International and based on a random sample of 2,191 full-time employees who work at a desk. It's the second time the survey was conducted as part of the Home Food Safety program, a collaboration between the American Dietetic Association and ConAgra Foods; the previous survey was conducted in 2003.

the KEY to clean

Computer users sometimes are startled by the discovery of non-native species harbored by their keyboard. Dust bunnies, crumb colonies and Coke deposits can be safely relocated depending on how you want to play it.

TRIBUNE, TRIBUNE ILLUSTRATIONS



Step 1

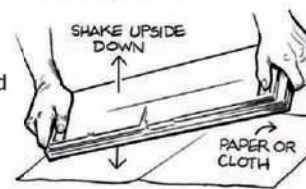
Take keyboard outside. Spray "canned air" (sold at office supply and stores) at an angle between keys.

CLEAN IT

Regular light cleaning prevents overheating and extends life of keyboard.

Step 2

Turn the keyboard over and gently shake any stubborn particles loose.



Step 3

Wipe a damp paper towel over keys and other surfaces.



DRY IT

If that cup of coffee just spilled itself, try the following triage.



Step 1

Unplug and tilt keyboard to side or to drain.

Step 2

Wipe surfaces with damp cloth and air-dry.

CHUCK IT

Replacement keyboards cost as little as \$9 unless they are on a laptop or otherwise built-in.

Step 1
Buy a new keyboard.

Step 2
Discard / recycle old keyboard.

EAT SNACKS

50%



EAT DINNER

4%



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72 53
Still ugly



THURSDAY
62 52
Mehhhhh



FRIDAY
62 52
Deja weather

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SUPER (CTA) SWEEP



City announces plan for cleaning transit stations

Chicago Tribune

Mayor Emanuel announced a plan Tuesday that he says will allow the city to clean and repair CTA train stations more efficiently.

Teams of city workers and private contractors will work together, moving from station to station to complete all the work at once, Emanuel said at a news conference with CTA president Forrest Claypool.

Currently, different kinds of workers perform the station repairs on different schedules.

The effort will cost about \$25 million using money that's available because of cuts to the CTA bureaucracy, Claypool said.

NEXT IN LINE

Here are the stations that are receiving this treatment first. REDEYE



Logan Square Blue Line



California Blue Line



Halsted Orange Line



Jarvis Red Line



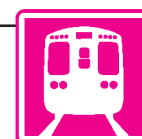
Cicero Blue Line



43rd Green Line



Skokie Yellow Line



Kostner Pink Line

Mayor Emanuel borrows a newspaper Tuesday from an "L" rider on his way back from a tour of the CTA's Logan Square Blue Line station. CHRIS WALKER/TRIBUNE

DAILY QUOTABLE

“As we continue to evaluate opportunities to open stores across the city, we also will continue to be flexible in our approach to local communities.”

—**Julie Murphy**, vice president of Midwest operations in Chicago for Wal-Mart. The company plans to open its first Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market store in Chicago on Wednesday at the Presidential Towers apartment complex in the West Loop.



JOEL WINTERMANTLE/FOR THE TRIBUNE

EXPRESS LINES

- » A woman walked into a downtown bank branch Tuesday morning and fled with cash after threatening a teller, the FBI said. The robber entered the Chase branch at 600 N. Dearborn St. about 9 a.m.
- » Chicago architect Jeanne Gang has been awarded a 2011 MacArthur Fellowship—aka “genius grant”—and has been described by the foundation as “an architect challenging the aesthetic and technical possibilities of the art form.”
- » Vice President Joe Biden is collecting at least \$500,000 from two fundraisers held in Chicago on Tuesday for the re-election of President Obama, sources familiar with the events said. **TRIBUNE**



Rick Bayless will take his talents to the stage next year in the Lookingglass Theatre production "Rick Bayless in Cascabel." MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE

Bright lights, Rick Bayless

Chicago Tribune

Rick Bayless is adding another leaf to his already formidable repertoire of celebrity chef, researcher, author, TV host and all-around culinary entrepreneur focused on the cuisine of Mexico.

Next spring, Bayless will be the live-and-in-person star of a Magnificent Mile circus show designed for and around him, it was announced at Chicago's Lookingglass Theatre on Tuesday morning. You could think of it as a kind of Chef du Soleil.

Titled "Rick Bayless in Cascabel," the new

show has been developed by Tony Hernandez, Lookingglass' circus specialist, and the director Heidi Stillman. It will run for four weeks only, from March 23 to April 22 — and given Bayless' national reputation, it's likely to be a hot ticket.

The show is set in a Mexican boarding house "at the end of a dusty road" during the 1940s, according to Lookingglass. Bayless will play a chef who tries to seduce a woman with no appetite by filling her heart with food.

Supporting players are to include a tight-

rope-walking sous chef and a comedic maitre d'. Bayless is credited with co-authorship.

"Food will be a leading character," said Bayless, "that will speak to audiences by flavor and texture."

Ticket prices, which run from \$180-\$205, will include a three-course meal, hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic beverages. Anticipating high demand, Lookingglass said it has reserved the right to increase those prices as tickets became scarce.

Capacity will be 150 people a night.

Charges in Logan Square boy's beating

Charges were filed late Tuesday against an alleged gang member police accuse of beating a 14-year-old Logan Square boy into a coma last week as the younger boy walked home from his girlfriend's house.

Esteban Miranda, 19, of the 1600 block of North Maplewood Avenue, is set to appear in court

Wednesday, where he faces one count of attempted first-degree murder and one count of armed robbery, said Tandra Simonton, a spokeswoman for the Cook County State's Attorney's office.

Meanwhile, the victim, Brian DeLeon, remains in a coma. DeLeon, a Phoenix Military Academy freshman, was brutally beaten and left for dead Sept. 13 near Yates Elementary School.



DeLeon

Trial opens in officer's death

A South Side man seeking to avenge an earlier shooting killed Chicago police Officer Alejandro "Alex" Valadez in a volley of bullets, then drove to a friend's house where he partied with his buddies, prosecutors told jurors Tuesday as his trial opened. Shawn Gaston's attorney, John Paul Carroll, told jurors the police broke procedure and even fabricated evidence in their "frantic" search for a killer in the June 2009 slaying.

Rally held for mass transit

Transportation advocates and transit workers held a rally Tuesday at Union Station during the evening rush period to solicit public support for maintaining full federal aid for mass transit and increasing the investment over the long term. A proposal pending in Congress would cut more than 30 percent of federal funding for public transit and other ground-transportation programs as part of a move to reduce government spending.

Senators: Not so fast, Metra

Illinois' two U.S. senators called on Metra on Tuesday to explain why the commuter rail agency is contemplating a nearly 30 percent increase in fares. In a letter to Metra, Senators Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) and Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) asked Metra CEO Alex Clifford to outline the costs incurred by the agency and substantiate the need for the proposed fare hike. Metra's staff on Friday proposed a increase in monthly passes, ten-ride tickets and one-way tickets to offset a projected \$64.7 million shortfall in 2012. TRIBUNE

THE DIGIT

\$50 million

GrubHub, the Chicago-based company that links consumers with food delivery options via the Web or mobile phones, has raised \$50 million in a new round of funding and acquired a New York online food delivery network.



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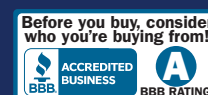
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Feds: Poker website was Ponzi scheme

1 Federal prosecutors on Tuesday accused executives at the online site Full Tilt Poker of operating a Ponzi scheme, siphoning more than \$440 million in gamblers' winnings to board members and owners. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York also charged poker celebrities Howard Lederer and Christopher Ferguson of taking part in and profiting from the scams.

Dead Marine pilots were from Illinois

2 The two pilots killed in the crash of a Marine attack helicopter during training at Camp Pendleton on Monday were from Illinois, military officials said. The Marines were identified as 1st Lt. Thomas Heitmann, from Mendota, and Capt. Jeffrey Bland, from Champaign.

Peace leader killed

3 The head of Afghanistan's High Peace Council, who had been tasked with trying to negotiate a political end to the war, was killed at his home in Kabul on Tuesday by at least one suicide bomber, a senior official said.

Sheen still shines

Charlie Sheen won't go away. His "winning" catchphrase and "royal wedding" top the Global Language Monitor's list of most used phrases of the 2010-11 TV season. GLM uses a mathematical formula to track the frequency of words and phrases in print, electronic and social media.



Shortest siblings

4 Bridgette Jordan, 22, and her brother Brad, 20, who attend Kaskasia College in central Illinois, were named the "Shortest Living Siblings" by Guinness World Records on Tuesday. Bridgette is 27 inches tall, which makes her the world's shortest woman, Guinness said. Her brother is 38 inches tall. Both siblings were born with Majewski osteodysplastic primordial dwarfism type II. **HANDOUT PHOTO GIVEN TO REUTERS**

Clemency denied for Ga. inmate

5 **ATLANTA** A Georgia parole board on Tuesday denied a last-ditch clemency appeal by Troy Davis, who is set to be executed in a high-profile case Wednesday for the murder of a police officer.

Davis' case has attracted international attention and became a focus for death penalty opponents because seven of nine trial witnesses since have recanted their testimony, prompting supporters to say he may be innocent.



DAVIS

But experts said Tuesday's decision by Georgia's Board of Pardons and Paroles closes the most viable legal avenue for Davis in his bid to avoid execution.

"The Board has considered the totality of the information presented in this case and thoroughly deliberated on it, after which the decision was to deny clemency," the state body said in a statement.

Davis was convicted of the 1989 killing of police officer Mark MacPhail near a Burger King restaurant in Savannah, Ga. MacPhail's family says Davis is guilty and should be executed.

He is due to die by lethal injection at 7 p.m. local time Wednesday at Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison in Jackson.

Experts say Davis' legal options appear slim, not least because Georgia's constitution gives authority on pardons and paroles to the board—so no appeal to the governor is possible.

"It doesn't seem like there is a strong legal option at this point. This [the parole board hearing] is most likely it," said Anne Emanuel, a law professor at Georgia State University who advises Amnesty International USA.



THE DIGIT

1.3 million

More than 1.3 million people were advised to evacuate Tuesday as typhoon Roke approached Japan, threatening the city of Nagoya with heavy rain and landslides. Typhoon Roke follows on the heels of tropical storm Talas, which left about 100 people dead or missing in western Japan earlier this month.



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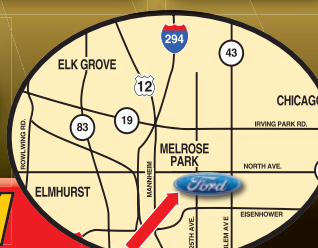
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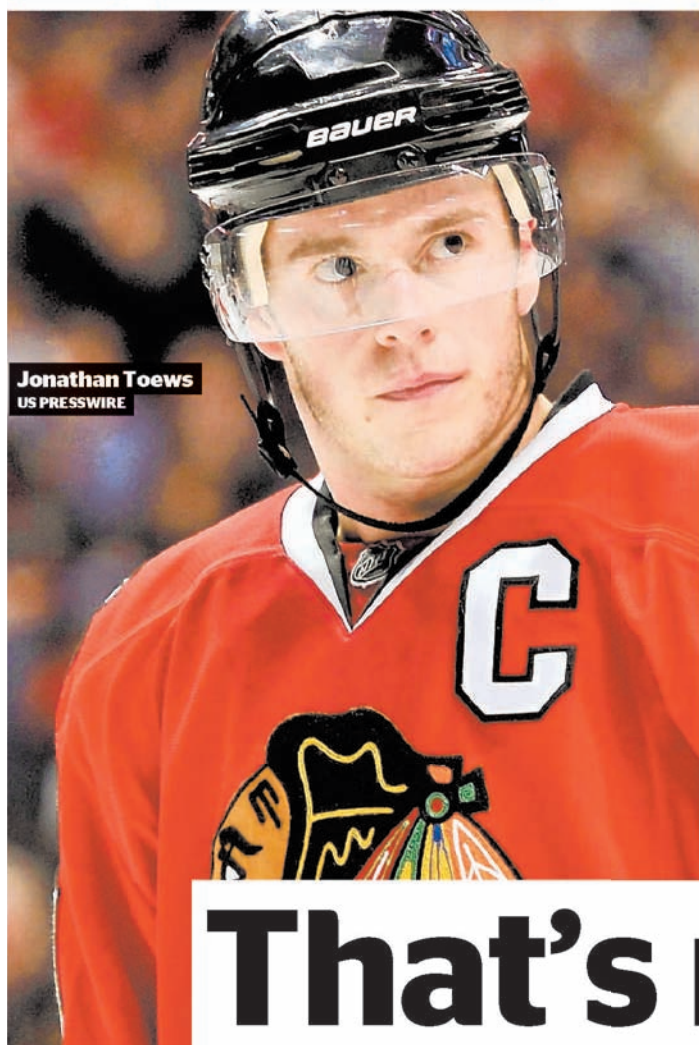
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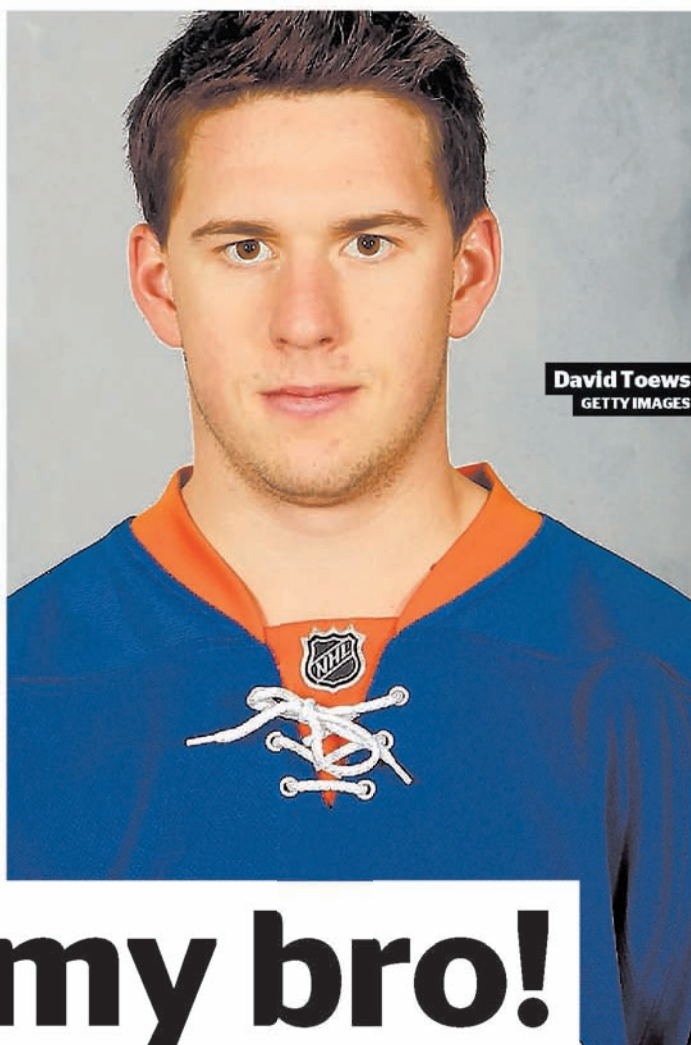
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Jonathan Toews
US PRESSWIRE



David Toews
GETTY IMAGES

That's my bro!

Like the Toewses, these athletes have more in common than just a last name

The Blackhawks kicked off their preseason schedule Tuesday, and while that's not necessarily exciting in and of itself, the game did feature brothers Jonathan and David Toews playing for the Hawks. While two siblings on the same professional team is rare, Chicago has had its share of athletes whose brothers weren't too shabby, either. Here are our Top 5 pairs. **REDEYE**

JOHN AND JIM PAXSON

Before John became a fixture in the Bulls front office (way to draft Derrick Rose!), he cemented his place in Chicago lore with his 3-pointer to beat Phoenix in Game 6 of the 1993 NBA finals. Jim was a two-time All-Star (take that, big brother!) with Portland and now works as a consultant for the Bulls.

HORACE AND HARVEY GRANT

Horace did much of the inside dirty work during the first Bulls three-peat, all while playing in the shadow of Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen. Those same three years (1991-93), Harvey averaged at least 18 points per game with Washington. What could have been, eh, Harvey?

GREG AND MIKE MADDUX

Greg had the decency to win one Cy Young Award with the Cubs before dominating for 11 years in Atlanta, then returned for a farewell stint in Chicago. Mike, also a pitcher, topped out at 39 career wins compared with his brother's 355, but 14 years in the majors ain't half bad.

THOMAS AND JULIUS JONES

Thomas was the featured running back during the Bears' run to the Super Bowl in the 2006 season, before the team later traded him. Younger brother Julius topped 1,000 yards rushing that same season with Dallas but is struggling to keep a roster spot these days.

JOHN AND JORDAN DANKS

John has proved a reliable starting pitcher for the White Sox and shut out Minnesota for eight innings to help get the team into the 2008 playoffs. Younger brother Jordan is a Sox minor-league outfielder, and if he impresses the coaches in spring training, there could be a Toews-like reunion in 2012.

Do the conference shuffle



Ernest Wilkins

» erwilkins@tribune.com

» [@remixchicago](https://twitter.com/remixchicago)

During the Florida State-Oklahoma game (and my subsequent alcohol-fueled depression), it was brought to my attention that Big East stalwarts Pitt and Syracuse have joined the ACC. Add to this the never-ending saga of reports that Texas and Texas A&M are trying to leave the Big 12 like it's the morning after a bad

hookup, and college football realignment is becoming more interesting than some of the games being played.

The way I see it, if we're going to march toward super-mega conferences, let's do it right. Here are the changes I'd make.

» Make Notre Dame join the Big Ten already. Domers, who do you think you are? Just sashaying around like you own the place, playing whomever you like. Not on my watch. Did you see how good that ND-Michigan game was? Can you imagine ND-Nebraska every year? Or ND-Iowa? Being raised in the Midwest, it's not like it would seem out of place. Wait, now the Big Ten has 13 teams ...

» Make the Big 12 all-Texas everything, and Missouri becomes the 14th team in the Big Ten. The new Big 12 consists of mostly Texas schools, since they always get up for playing one another. So Texas, Texas Tech, Texas A&M, TCU, Baylor, Rice, SMU, Houston and their rogues gallery: Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Kansas and Kansas State.

» Beef up the also-rans. The Big East, Conference USA and Mountain West should be packed with those teams you never hear anything about until they blow out a Big Ten school in the Fiesta Bowl. Think Boise State, BYU, Utah, West Virginia. Relegate their bad teams to the Sun Belt and the MAC and load them up. Let them slug it out. Every game becomes a must-watch, because they get a BCS bid for their champ. Now the SEC/Pac-12/ACC/Big 12/Big Ten have to be on top of their game to make a title run.

This is just a small piece of the puzzle. Obviously it would be easier to just do a damn playoff, but you play the hand you're dealt. Email me with any fantasy realignment thoughts you have. No matter what, I'm just happy football's back.

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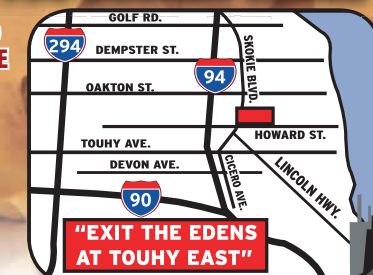
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1 Lovie Smith says the Bears will "clean up" their play calling. Help him out.

Try running the ball instead of dropping it.

Read my lips: NO MORE SCREEN PASSES.

Plays designed NOT to pop our QB's head off would be a good start.

I can't. Running the ball is just not Mike Martz's "Forte."

They can clean it up all they want, but if the O-line doesn't improve, there's no helping Lovie.

2 What was Jay Cutler thinking when he heard Gabe Carimi would miss time?

"Wisconsin strikes again! Packed, then sacked."

The same thing I would say if I got sacked over five times. "Aw, [bleep]."

Pretty sure by that point, Jay had no idea who Gabe Carimi was.

"Man up! A knee injury is no reason to miss time."

"I'd rather have a one-legged Gabe Carimi than a two-legged Frank Omiyale."

3 Why did Peyton Manning show up at Colts practice Monday?

He was putting his neck on the line. Kyle Orton should try that.

Because he's a glutton for punishment, I suppose. Yikes, they're bad.

Because he'll kill a snitch. He's not saying he has, he's not saying he hasn't.

He wanted to be a pain in the neck for the coaching staff.

Wantd 2 gve @JimIrsay ... sumthin to tweet about

4 Playing an NFL game with a punctured lung is ...

... like sleeping with Jessica Simpson. Everything feels crushed.

... godly, man. I didn't know you could even do that! *starts rubbing chest*

... the new standard Bears fans will expect of poor Jay Cutler.

... like watching an MLB playoff game without the White Sox: SUFFOCATING.

... probably not half as bad as what Jay Cutler endured Sunday.

5 What Chicago team should push for league realignment?

Notre Dame. Realign all their fans out of the city.

There's a joke about the lingerie football team here, I just can't find it.

I don't know about realignment, but the Cubs are a good argument for relegation.

A Chicago Bandits/Cubs league switch might finally bring a championship to Wrigley Field.

Not the Cubs. It would be a shame for them to no longer have the Astros and Pirates (fingers crossed!) behind them.



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Guillen
MCT FILE

Anxious Ozzie

Could this be another Ozzie Guillen ultimatum-that's-not-quite-an-ultimatum?

The White Sox manager hopes to find out his status with the team before leaving for a trip to Spain with his wife two days after the conclusion of the regular season.

"I hope I do," Guillen said Tuesday. "If not, I know my switch will be off right away because I don't want to spend time with my wife thinking about baseball and thinking about what is our future."

Guillen has one more year on his contract, but he has publicly stated that he would like an extension so he's not entering 2012 as a

lame-duck manager. He is expected to receive a lucrative offer from Florida if the Marlins get permission to talk to Guillen, who remains disappointed by the Sox's finish this season.

"I don't say embarrassing, but we don't get where we want to get," Guillen said. "It makes you wonder if you're that good. That makes you wonder if you're managing well, if my coaching staff did their job."

"It makes you wonder about a lot of things we went through spring training, April, May, if we did the right thing to go with six-man rotation, if we do right thing to keep [Adam] Dunn and [Alex] Rios in the lineup."

Owens throws hail mary

Free agent wide receiver Terrell Owens reportedly traveled to Korea for stem-cell therapy on his injured knee, the Korea Times reported Sept. 19. He suffered a torn ACL in the offseason but vowed to return this season. Meanwhile, Fox's Jay Glazer reported Sunday that Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning underwent a similar treatment in Europe. If Owens does return, maybe the Bears should consider signing him? Jay Cutler could use all the reliable targets he can get—or someone to throw himself in front of a blitzing linebacker.

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60 YEARS



Illinois football has a chance Saturday to improve to 4-0 for the first time since 1951—the last time the team won a national championship. The Illini host Western Michigan at 2:30 p.m.

THE FINISH LINE

» Game 1: Cleveland 4, White Sox 3 » Game 2: Sox 5, Cleveland 4 » Milwaukee 5, Cubs 1

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music

**FAST
FORWARD**
TOP 5 SHOWS THROUGH SUNDAY

Black Star
9 p.m. Fri. at House of Blues
Mos Def and Talib Kweli back
together. Sweet.

Laura Marling
9 p.m. Thu. at Lincoln Hall
21 years old, 3 great albums.
Impressive.



Vic Mensa Personality Profile Test

What's the last album you bought?
I think it'd be [Jay-Z and Kanye West's] "Watch the Throne."

Song you've listened to on repeat recently?
I've been listening to this song called "Birds" by this indie band Margot & the Nuclear So & Sos.

Song you never want to hear again?
Some song I heard by this little boy band called Mindless Behavior with Diggy Simmons. That [bleep] was terrible.

Best concert you've seen in the last year?
I think it's the band that we opened for the other day called the Tedeschi Trucks Band.

New band you don't know personally that deserves to be big?
You know who I like? I like this band Phony Ppl from New York. They're dope.

Favorite movie ever?
"Kids," directed by Larry Clark.

Chicago's best music venue?
I would probably say House of Blues.



Kids These Days' frontman on the group's start, a year after sneaking into Lolla almost killed him

CHI-TUNES

Andy Downing

» redeye@tribune.com

On Kids These Days' debut EP, "Hard Times," the youthful, seven-piece collective—most of whom aren't even near legal drinking age—effortlessly swings between blues, jazz, hip-hop and soul. According to

rapper and Hyde Park native Vic Mensa, this seamless chemistry is the product of countless hours locked away in a West Loop practice space dubbed "The Trap." And the occasional resulting rumble.

"Disagreements can get settled anywhere from a show of hands to a fistfight," he says, describing the crew's sometimes-rowdy democratic process. In a recent phone interview before the band's appearance at the Hideout Block Party this weekend, Mensa, 18, discussed his near-death experience, the band's recent meeting with Wilco's Jeff Tweedy and what the youngsters really know about hard times.

With a last name like Mensa, do people just assume you have a genius IQ?

Hideout Block Party

When: Noon Saturday

Where: Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave.

Tickets: \$25, 773-227-4433

[Laughs.] That's funny because when I was a kid I used to play soccer on a couple Mexican teams and "mensa" was actually slang for stupid. Then down the road I hear we've got Mensa International and things like that. My dad was actually invited to join, but I know he didn't.

What was it like performing at Lollapalooza this summer?

It was insane. It was by far the craziest show I've ever been a part of. I know I can speak for the whole band when I say that. It was a triumphant moment to be on that stage in our hometown in front of all those people.

I read something about you being electrocuted

trying to sneak into Lolla last year. Did you get hit with a Taser or something?

What had happened was I was on this bridge off Monroe trying to climb down a Metra train structure and onto the tracks, and I touched a transformer pretty much at the top of the bridge. I ended up getting electrocuted and falling 30 feet or something. I was in the hospital like three nights.

I didn't realize how serious it was.

Yeah, it was horrible. I could have died. That's kind of what made being at Lollapalooza this year amazing—the fact that I almost lost my life on pretty much the same day last year.

I imagine the Hideout Block Party will be a bit less intense. Is there anyone you're looking forward to seeing perform?

I'm really looking forward to Mavis Staples. We were in the studio with Jeff Tweedy from Wilco the other day, and he produced her latest record, "You Are Not Alone." The music I heard off it I really liked, and I definitely want to be-

Chris Brown
7 p.m. Fri. at First Midwest Bank
Amphitheatre
Can't say he's not a great dancer.

Okkervil River
7:30 p.m. Thu. at Vic Theatre
Love the way Will Sheff tells
stories.

Jane's Addiction
9 p.m. Sat.-Sun. at Metro
Overrated. But big for some
people.



Greg Landfair

Macie Stewart

CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE

come more familiar with it.

Why were you in the studio with Tweedy? Are you doing some recording with him?

We were really just getting acquainted with the place, and he showed us some music from the new album, which was [bleeping] mind-blowing. Just getting into it with him, chopping it up and talking about some stuff.

This was at the Wilco Loft, right? Is that where you guys are going to do the full-length?

Well, we're definitely talking about recording some music there in the near future. Probably some music for our next project, which is called "Traphouse Rock." It's going to be a free album, but we're approaching it like a full-length, undoubtedly.

After your first record came out, you had to get sick of hearing, "You guys aren't old enough to know hard times."

I don't even think we've heard that before. It

would be pretty ignorant for someone to tell us, as 18-year-olds in Chicago, that we don't know about hard times. I mean, 18-year-old black men in Chicago are probably the people dying at the fastest rate. It feels like damn near every time we get out on the road these days I'm getting a phone call about somebody getting locked up or dying. We definitely know hard times out here.

People are always asking what's wrong with kids these days. What's wrong with grown-ups these days?

A lot of times they forget they were once kids themselves. I'm getting older, and you get to that point where you're fed up with childish things and you feel like you don't have the time for it. But I think you always have to remember that you were at some point a child, and everyone is always still growing. No one is ever completely developed, and no one knows everything.

ANDY DOWNING IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

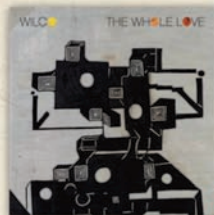
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thursday | sept. 29

**Simpleton & Cityfolk
Singer/Songwriter Spotlight**

9:00 PM | ADMISSION: \$5 | ALL AGES

friday | sept. 30

Hard Rock's Local Revue

10:00 PM | ADMISSION: \$5 | ALL AGES

thursday | oct. 9

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WEDNESDAY'S TOP SHOWS

ALFONSO PONTICELLI AND SWING GITAN
9 p.m. \$6. Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway. 773-878-5552.

ANDY DAVIS, SUMMER
8 p.m. \$10-\$12. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

ANI DIFRANCO, ANAIS MITCHELL
7:30 p.m. \$41. **etix.com.** Vic Theatre, 3145 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-472-0449.

AUDIENTES, MILES COYNE AND THE RUSTY NICKEL BAND, EMBLEMS, HEMMINGBIRDS
8:30 p.m. \$5. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

FRANK CATALANO SEXTET
2 a.m. Free. Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway. 773-878-5552.

JILL ANDREWS, KEVIN ANDREW PRCHAL
9 p.m. \$12. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

MIKROKOLEKTYW
9:30 p.m. \$7. Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

SOLITAIRE MILES QUINTET
8 and 10 p.m. \$5-\$10. Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Ct. 773-509-9360.



TYLER BRYANT
10:15 p.m. \$10-\$12. House of Blues, Back Porch Stage, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2007.

WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL: BROCK MCGUIRE BAND
8 p.m. \$10 donation. Chief O'Neill's Pub, 3471 N. Elston Ave. 773-473-5263.

WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL: CONTINENTAL DRIFT LIVE RADIO BROADCAST, TE VAKA, MOVITS!, STAFF BENDA BILILI
noon Free. Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St. 312-744-6630.

WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL: CREOLE CHOIR OF CUBA, BOUBACAR TRAORE TRIO

Kaki King
You could spend years learning the guitar and not be able to shrug like she does, and she's on an acoustic. Just saying.

8 p.m. \$20-\$34. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. 847-492-8860.

8 p.m. \$15. Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave. 773-381-4554.

WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL: FRIGG, DJ SOUND CULTURE
8 p.m. Free. Hostelling International, 24 E. Congress Parkway. 312-360-0300.

WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL: MOVITS!, FRIGG
9 p.m. \$12. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL: NAWAL QUARTET, STAFF BENDA BILILI
6:30 p.m. Free. Jay Pritzker Pavilion, Millennium Park, 201 E. Randolph St. 312-742-1148.

WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL: TE VAKA
8:30 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-728-6000.



Disturbing the Air
Azita, (Drag City)

A dreamy voice and a haunting piano. That's more than enough to lend weight to tales of a relationship that's grown cold but must be unfrozen before it can end and everyone can move on. That unhappy purgatory is the tension throughout "Disturbing the Air," the latest from this ethereal Chicago-based singer-songwriter, which may match perfectly to melancholy moods or just help you realize that you're not as depressed as you thought you were. Some may enjoy wallowing in the consistent mood, though I think it's a bit wearying to endure so much twinkling loneliness track after track. In individual doses, however, there's no denying the heartbreaking playing on "I Was Indebted," the wounded emptiness of "Should I Be?" or the beautiful, mildly uplifting closer "Keep Hymn." And the naked lyricism constantly hits hard: On "Stars or Fish," Azita sings, "I bought you the best telescope I could afford/Because you said you wanted to look at the stars/The mildest evenings came and went/ You only ever look at the ground." That's rough. Telescopes are expensive. —MATT PAIS
In concert: Oct. 29 at Hideout

THE venue



STEVE HARVEY
January 14



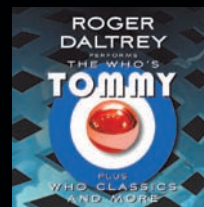
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1

GAME NIGHTS

Since Rosie participated in a quiz night at Cullen's (3741 N. Southport Ave.) recently, maybe she'll want to hit a few other spots that offer some playful competition. Boystown bar **D.S. Tequila Company** (3352 N. Halsted St.) has weekly trivia nights, while Fizz Bar & Grill (3220 N. Lincoln Ave.) is known for its drinking games.



2

BASEBALL BARS

In homage to Rosie's role in "A League of Their Own," as well as her recent Harry Caray's Tavern visit, may we suggest a baseball bar or two? Wrigleyville has no shortage, including classics such as Cubby Bear (1059 W. Addison St.), Murphy's Bleachers (3655 N. Sheffield Ave.), **Sluggers** (3540 N. Clark St.) and The Stretch (3485 N. Clark St.).

3 SHOPPING WITH AN EDGE

Perhaps Rosie would be interested in a few of Lakeview's most sexy and subversive clothing shops, such as **Taboo Tabou** (854 W. Belmont Ave.) or The Alley (3228 N. Clark St.), in honor of her leather-wearing character in "Exit to Eden."



8 LAKEVIEW TIPS TO KEEP ROSIE BUSY

To be closer to the set of her new show at Harpo Studios, Rosie O'Donnell is under contract to buy a \$2.5 million home on West Grace Street in Lakeview, the Tribune reports. Provided the deal goes through, we'll be ready to welcome her to the neighborhood with these recommendations for Lakeview restaurants, bars and shops. **REDEYE STAFF**

4 CUPCAKE SHOPS

Rosie has publicly declared her love for Sprinkles cupcakes. Though Chicago's only location of the West Coast bakery is in the Gold Coast, she won't have a problem getting her cupcake fix without leaving Lakeview thanks to **Phoebe's Cupcakes** (3327 N. Broadway) and the delicious buttercream-topped cupcakes at Southport Grocery (3552 N. Southport Ave.).



5 COMEDY CLUBS

Since Rosie's roots are in comedy, she should definitely check out some local acts in her new neighborhood, such as ComedySportz Theatre (929 W. Belmont Ave.) or iO (3541 N. Clark St.).



BURGER JOINTS

In tribute to Rosie's role as Rizzo in the 1994 Broadway revival of "Grease," a good old-fashioned burger-and-fries combo always hits the spot. May we suggest **DMK** (2954 N. Sheffield Ave.) or Flub A Dub Chubs (3021 N. Broadway)?



IRISH PUBS

With a name like O'Donnell, surely she'll want to patronize an Irish pub or two. Lakeview favorites include **Wilde Bar & Restaurant** (3130 N. Broadway), Johnny O'Hagan's (3374 N. Clark St.) and Mystic Celt (3443 N. Southport Ave.).

6 NEW BOYSTOWN SPOTS

Surely Rosie already knows about Lakeview's LGBT-centric Boystown. But we can point her to the neighborhood's newest businesses, including Italian restaurant and lounge Taverna 750 (750 W. Cornelia St.), craft cocktail bar **Elixir** (3452 N. Halsted St.) and healthy cafe Ful (3310 N. Broadway).



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BAR-GUMENTS

SETTLING AGE-OLD, BAR-BASED DISAGREEMENTS ONE ARGUMENT AT A TIME

What is a bar-gument, you say? For as long as there have been watering holes, there have been disagreements. Some people prefer martinis with gin, some with vodka. Bar-guments is here to settle some longstanding bar conflicts once and for all.

This week: Should you drink with co-workers?

YEP

Ernest Wilkins

ERWILKINS@TRIBUNE.COM
@REMIXCHICAGO



VS



NOPE

Georgia Garvey

GGARVEY@TRIBUNE.COM
@GCGARVEY

Chances are if you're reading this, you're of legal drinking age. Know what that means? You're an adult. If you can't handle your booze by this point, you need to work on that. Of course you should drink with your co-workers! They know all your war stories and tales of office incompetence, and unlike your significant other, they get your impression of weird Jim. Also, blackmail. You never know when you'll need a little extra leverage.

Drink with coworkers? I suppose it's fine if you have a ready-made set of excuses for your potential misbehavior once you're over-served—up to and including “I'm on anti-psychotic medication that doesn't mix well with alcohol.” Otherwise, keep your eyes on the road and your head clear when you're in the presence of someone who can fire you.

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NOW THAT'S
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Magical mystery tour

Jonny Stax is off to find Chicago's 'innovative entertainments' with the Fifth Star Expo

By Julia Borcherts

FOR REDEYE

You probably already know that Chicago's flag has four stars, which represent moments in the city's history—the original Fort Dearborn settlement, the Chicago Fire, the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition (“Devil in the White City,” anyone?) and the 1933 Century of Progress Exposition. But what if there was cause to add a fifth star?

On Sunday, comedic cabaret duo Scooty & JoJo, the creators of such hit parody shows as “Alien Queen,” play host to the Fifth Star Expo Launch Party, the kickoff to a series of what they call “innovative entertainments.” Transplants from New York City, Jonny Stax and Scott Bradley invite city-dwellers to join them on a search across Chicago for artistic, social, cultural and technological innovators who may have what it takes to expand the flag. We called Stax to find out what surprises he has in store.

What kinds of ‘innovative entertainments’ can people expect at the launch party?

A sampling of the various events that we’ll be attending—musical, dance, comedy and technology. Scooty & JoJo host a cocktail party with original live music by Nicholas Davio and The Projects, then a brief presentation about the expo and new entertainment by Madam Barker, a really incredible, dark cabaret performer and [her accompanist] John [Fournier], male belly-dancer Lee Na-Moo and experimental musicians Roth Mobot.

What inspired you to create this expo?

Scott and I have been [wanting to start] a laboratory and retreat center to support the development of new work, and we decided this was the year to put the ball in motion to start the non-profit to support that. [So] we needed to get a sense of what new work is being developed and where innovation is happening in Chicago.

Why Chicago?

There’s such a wealth of experimental new work that happens here, more so than probably any other city in the country.

FIFTH STAR EXPO LAUNCH PARTY

Go: 6-9 p.m. Sunday at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave.; 773-327-5252; jonnystax.com
Tickets: Donations accepted

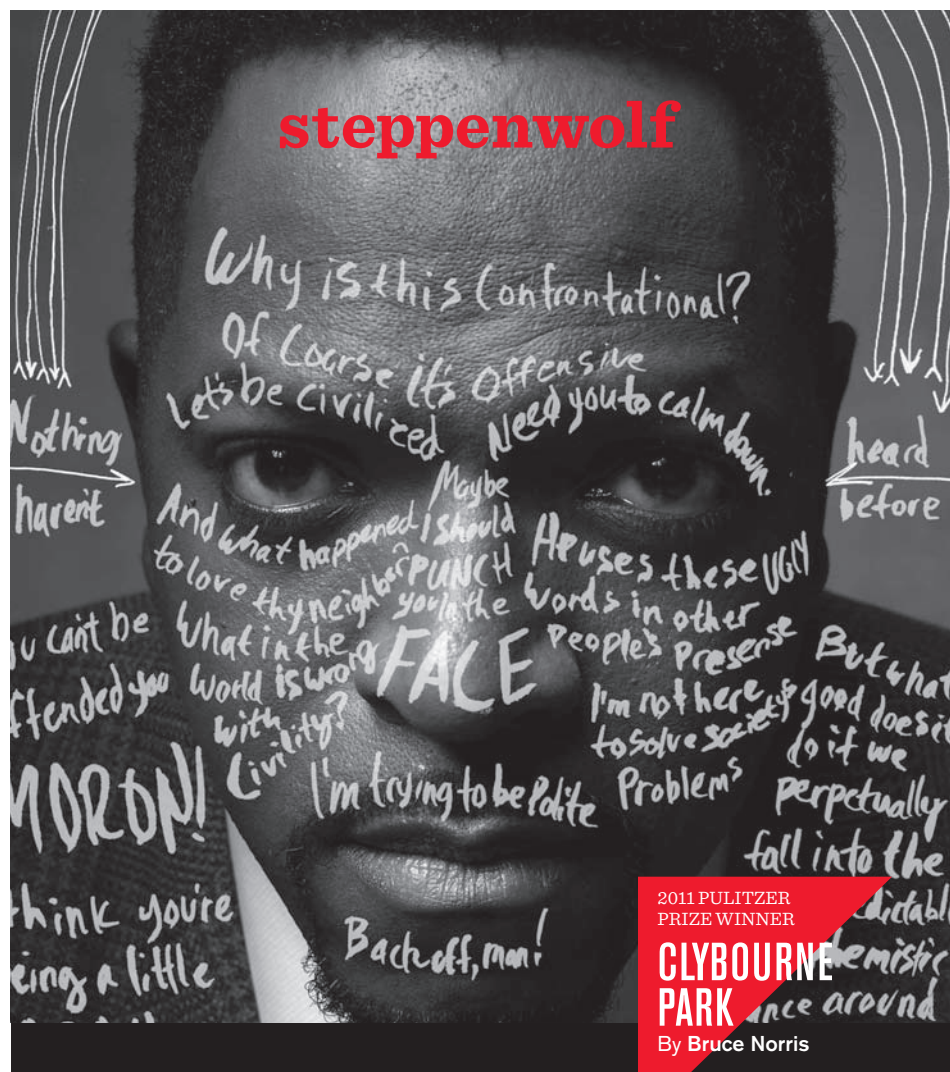


Jonny Stax

What in your background led you to believe that you had the skill sets to coordinate something like this?

Just a whole lot of boldness! [Laughs] My previous career before producing entertainment was in the social justice field, working to facilitate dialogue to help people bring their experiences to the table and develop some new shared meaning and understanding together.

INTERVIEW HAS BEEN EDITED AND CONDENSED.
JULIA BORCHERTS IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

**AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT CHICAGO'S
NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY**

5 – 7:00 pm (between the matinee and evening performances of *Clybourne Park*)

Steppenwolf Theatre's Upstairs Lobby, 1650 N. Halsted

Ever wondered why North Avenue is such a busy corridor? Where the Brown Line stop at Halsted and North went? Bill Savage, a homegrown expert on Chicago, will share his vast knowledge of Chicago's neighborhood history and open your eyes to what can happen when a neighborhood changes. The popular Northwestern lecturer is joined by WTTW's Dan Andries and Barbara E. Allan, producers of *From DuSable to Obama*, a documentary about Chicago's Black History. Screening of excerpts from the documentary will complement this lively discussion.

Explore events are **FREE**, but space is limited—your **RSVP** is required.
Call Audience Services at 312-335-1650 to reserve your spot today.

games

TOP 10 RENTING VIDEO GAME TITLES AT BLOCKBUSTER STORES FOR THE WEEK THAT ENDED SEPT. 11. SOURCE: MCT

1. "Madden NFL 12," XB360

2. "Resistance 3," PS3

3. "Warhammer 40K: Space Marine," XB360

4. "Madden NFL 12," PS3

5. "Deus Ex: Human Revolution," XB360

6. "NCAA Football 12," XB360

7. "Dead Island," XB360

8. "Deus Ex: Human Revolution," PS3

FALL GAMES PREVIEW

BATTLE LINES

The season's video gaming trend is a lot more 'boom, boom, pow!' and a lot less 'awwww!'

By Ryan Smith | FOR REDEYE

OK, hard-core gamers, you win.

In the past couple years, cutesy-pie pet simulators, music games and dumbed-down motion gaming titles were all the rage during the big fall video game season, prompting outcries from the type of gamers who like their games as black as their coffee. They worried their favorite pastime soon would be overrun by moms, grandparents and preteen girls.

But this year, the fall lineup of video games looks heavy on bloody big-budget action, sim-heavy sports titles and epic role-playing games. In other words, it's time to take a deep breath and raise a goblet of Mountain Dew in triumph. Because let's face it—Grandpa probably isn't going to pick up "Call of Duty" anytime soon.

RYAN SMITH IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR



Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3

Nov. 8, XB360/PS3/PC/Wii

Battlefield 3

Oct. 25, XB360/PS3/PC

The "Call of Duty" juggernaut hasn't had any serious competition for a few years now, but EA's "Battlefield 3" looks so good it's prompting speculation that we may soon see a "Coke vs. Pepsi" rivalry between the two franchises. The "Battlefield 3" single-player campaign puts your boots on the ground near the Iraq-Iran border as the vehicle-heavy multiplayer lets you take control of jeeps, tanks and even jets. "Call of Duty" players, meanwhile, battle in a ground war that focuses on a variety of compelling multiplayer modes with revamped killstreaks and perks.



Gears of War 3

Available now, XB360

The season of big shooters with the number "3" in their names begins with "Gears of War 3." The formula hasn't changed much from prior "Gears" games, but the final in the trilogy takes an everything-but-the-kitchen-sink approach. This time there's a four-player cooperative campaign, a new playable female character, a brand new Beast mode that lets you play as the bad guy and, yes, even the voice talents of Ice-T.



9. "Driver: San Francisco," XB360
10. "Warhammer 40K: Space Marine," PS3



Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim

Nov. 11, XB360/PS3/PC/Wii

This fantasy role-playing looks so epic in scale, it's like playing a video game version of "Game of Thrones" (minus all the sex, of course). But still, it's a game sure to give you a nerdgasm. In trailers for "Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim" we've seen fancy new magic spells, weapons that can be dual wielded (yes, even staffs!) and dragons. Pretty, pretty dragons who can breathe not-so-pretty fire in your face.



Rage

Oct. 4, XB360/PS3/PC

Desert-like post-apocalyptic worlds that recall "Mad Max" are becoming just as much of a staple in video games as zombies. But there are high hopes for "Rage." It's made by the legendary team behind "Doom" and "Quake," and it looks to be an interesting blend of first-person shooter, racing and role-playing. It's the most fun you'll have in a dune buggy all year—guaranteed.



Batman: Arkham City

Oct. 18, XB360/PS3/PC

For our money, "Batman: Arkham Asylum" was the best superhero video game of all time. That could change very soon. WB Games is releasing a sequel this fall called "Batman: Arkham City." Unlike the claustrophobic halls of the Asylum, Arkham City is a sprawling, gothic-style playground that Batman can explore from the rooftops to the sewers with a series of new moves and abilities. And this time you can switch from the bat to the cat. Arkham City lets players take a break from Batman to play as the mischievous Catwoman. We admit it, we're going batty for this sequel.



NBA 2K12

Oct. 4, XB360/PS3/PC

Last year's branding of Michael Jordan for the "NBA 2K" video game franchise was such a slam dunk, 2K Sports is bringing His Airness back and adding a handful of new basketball legends such as Larry Bird and Magic Johnson. In the new "NBA's Greatest" mode, gamers will be able to control these iconic players and pit them against both classic and modern-day teams. The NBA lockout could mean that real basketball won't be played this season, but "2K12" should be ballin' enough to hold us over for awhile.

Saints Row: The Third

Nov. 15, XB360/PS3/PC/Wii

Saint it ain't so! The third in the "Saints Row" series has enough R-rated mayhem and over-the-top action to make "Grand Theft Auto" look like a kids game in comparison. In the demo, we witnessed a character calling down an airstrike on enemies, punching people into an exploding bloody mess with comically oversized boxing gloves and even beating someone to death with a large purple dildo. Fox News is guaranteed to freak out about it for a solid week.



Uncharted 3: Drake's Deception

Nov. 1, PS3

The "Uncharted" series might be a thinly veiled "Indiana Jones" clone, but it gets major points for being a very good ripoff of our favorite adventurer. Heck, "Uncharted 2" had a way better story and script than "Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" (though that may not be saying much). The third in the series takes Nathan Drake to the Arabian desert in search of the mythical lost city Iram of the Pillars.

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show patrol

BY CURT WAGNER | REDEYE

Payback is pretty



VanCamp

Stowe



Revenge
9 p.m. Wednesday,
ABC

I dismissed the sudsy new prime-time soap "Revenge" when I watched its pilot over the summer, but I was too quick to judge. It's terrifically trashy and a lot of fun.

Sweet Emily VanCamp from "Brothers and Sisters" plays against type as Emily Thorne, a young billionaire who moves to the Hamptons to get even with the rich folks who destroyed her father and ruined her life. She rents a house next door to Victoria Grayson (Madeleine Stowe), the wealthy queen bee of the buzzing Hamptons social scene, and slithers her way into Victoria's circle.

The premiere packs in a few parties, a secret identity, a murder, a boatload of pretty people, a poisoning and a backstory involving corporate intrigue and terrorists.

All that, plus Emily and Victoria. VanCamp gives Emily equal amounts of cold resolve, pain, guilt and vengeful glee. Stowe's Victoria embodies all those qualities, plus an imposing nature that would have the "Real Housewives" of anywhere shaking in their Louboutins.

They say "Revenge" is a dish best served cold, and here it's downright delicious.

OTHER WEDNESDAY PREMIERES

Modern Family

8 p.m. ABC (Season 3 premiere)

The clan vacations at a dude ranch in Wyoming.

CSI: Crime Scene Investigation

9 p.m. CBS (Season 12 premiere)

Ted Danson, and a new night, could give this old warhorse a jolt.

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puzzles



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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

5	9	4	1	8	6	2	3	7
7	6	1	3	2	9	5	8	4
8	3	2	5	4	7	1	6	9
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3	8	9	4	7	1	6	5	2
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9	1	3	7	6	2	8	4	5
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6	4	8	9	1	5	7	2	3

TUESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

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I	C	O	N		E	D	G	A	R		E	R	I	C
D	E	B	T		R	E	E	S	E		R	I	C	K

ACROSS

- 1 Noah's boat
4 "...to __, dust to dust..."
9 Send a parcel
13 Bosc or Bartlett
15 Window covering
16 Musical sound
17 "A __ of Two Cities"
18 Sear
19 Learn by __; memorize
20 Took back
22 "When you wish __ a star..."
23 Contact via beeper
24 Fond du __, WI
26 Toward the rear of a ship
29 Stout
34 Glasses, for short
35 Computer command
36 Coal __; psoriasis salve
37 Dramatist Moss
38 Loud metallic ringing sound
39 Wise
40 Go astray
41 Burst forth
42 Country estate
43 Proximity
45 Bamboozled
46 Actress Lupino
47 Bee colony
48 Fashionable
51 Patience
56 Full of luxuriant foliage
57 Covered by vines
58 Fellow
60 Make eyes at
61 "La Traviata" composer
62 Relaxation
63 __ off; irritates
64 Wipe the slate
65 Bread variety

DOWN

- 1 Likely
2 Tush
3 Hardy cabbage
4 Appoint as a task
5 Glow
6 __ over; deliver
7 Rim

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- 8 Young plant
9 Smacked
10 Basketball player's goal
11 5 __ 10 is 2
12 Hammer part
14 Think highly of
21 Jaguars and Cougars
25 Assume a role
26 Pale
27 Extra
28 __ firma; solid ground

- 29 Ensnares
30 Suggestion
31 Piece of celery
32 Bird of prey
33 Pattern of tire grooves
35 In addition to
38 Artistic
39 Quietness
41 Conclusion
42 Paper towel brand
44 Wealth

- 45 Robin or dove, to a little child
47 Pays attention
48 Blood problem
49 Gigantic
50 __ of Capri
52 __-the-top; outrageous
53 Former Italian currency
54 Scorch
55 Simple
59 __ Wee Reese

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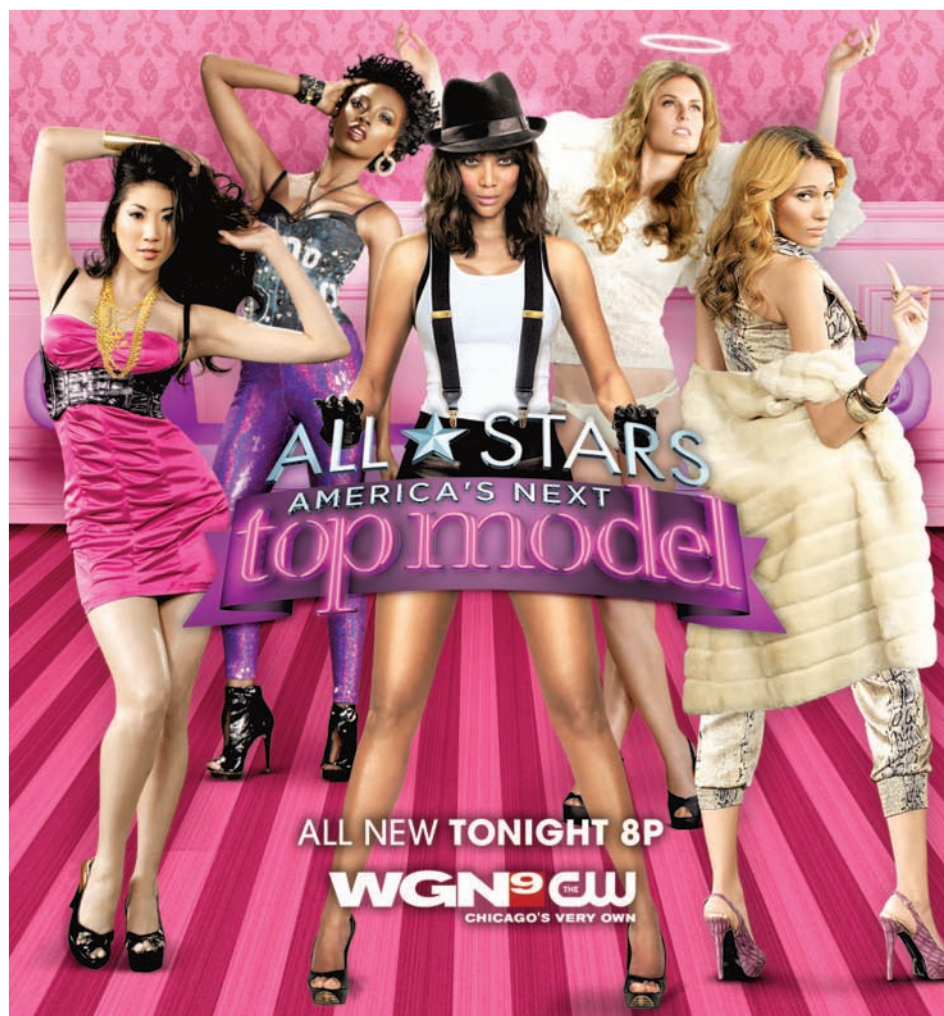
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- Contagion (PG-13) 1:55, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50
- Straw Dogs (R) 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
- Bucky Larson: Born to Be a Star (R) 10:00 P.M.
- Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 1:30, 4:00, 10:10
- Crazy, Stupid, Love. (PG-13) 1:50, 4:35, 7:20
- The Help (PG-13) 2:55, 6:25, 9:35

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- The Hedgehog (NR) ♦ 2:00, 4:35, 7:05, 9:40
- Circumstance (R) ♦ 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
- Higher Ground (R) ♦ 2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
- The Guard (R) ♦ 2:10, 4:25, 7:10, 9:25
- Midnight in Paris (PG-13) ♦ 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
- Bellflower (R) ♦ 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55
- Gun Hill Road (R) ♦ 2:35, 5:15, 7:35, 10:10

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- Bucky Larson: Born to Be a Star (R) 10:40
- Warrior (PG-13) 2:45, 6:10, 9:20
- Don't Be Afraid of the Dark (R) 10:20
- Crazy, Stupid, Love. (PG-13) 4:10, 9:35
- Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 1:50, 4:30, 7:40, 10:15
- The Help (PG-13) 12:10, 3:20, 6:30, 9:45
- Our Idiot Brother (R) 1:45, 6:50
- Colombiana (PG-13) 2:00, 4:40, 7:20
- Straw Dogs (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
- I Don't Know How She Does It (PG-13) 1:10, 3:40, 6:00, 8:30, 10:50
- Contagion (PG-13) 4:50, 10:45
- Drive (R) 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
- The Lion King 3D (G) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50
- Moneyball (PG-13) Advance Tickets Available
- Killer Elite (R) Advance Tickets Available
- Contagion (PG-13) (Open captioned) 1:40, 7:45
- Contagion (PG-13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:10, 10:10
- The Lion King (G) 12:45, 3:10, 5:45, 8:15

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- Contagion (PG-13) ♦ 5:15, 7:30, 10:00
- Midnight in Paris (PG-13) 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
- Our Idiot Brother (R) 5:50, 7:50, 9:50
- The Help (PG-13) 6:45, 9:45

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- Sleep My Love (NR) 6:00 P.M.

- Where Soldiers Come From (NR) 6:00 P.M.

- Amigo (R) 8:00 P.M.

- Beats, Rhymes & Life: The Travels of a Tribe Called Quest (R) 8:00 P.M.

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- Mysteries of Lisbon (NR) 1:40, 6:45

- Mozart's Sister (NR) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

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- Apollo 18 (PG-13) 11:10, 1:20, 3:35, 5:50, 8:10, 10:25
- Shark Night 3D (PG-13) 7:15, 9:35
- AMC Independent The Guard (R) 11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:00, 9:20
- Drive (R) 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
- Our Idiot Brother (R) 11:35, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:55
- I Don't Know How She Does It (PG-13) 11:00, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:45
- Spy Kids: All the Time in the World in 4D (3D) (PG) 11:00, 3:45, 6:40
- Contagion (PG-13) 11:30, 12:30, 2:20, 3:20, 5:10, 6:10, 8:00, 8:50, 10:40
- The Lion King 3D (G) 11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15
- Spy Kids: All the Time in the World in 4D (PG) 1:20, 6:15
- AMC Independent Kevin Hart: Laugh at My Pain (R) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:30
- Straw Dogs (R) 11:55, 2:45, 5:30, 8:10, 10:45
- Captain America: The First Avenger (PG-13) 11:05, 4:45, 10:20
- The Lion King (G) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45
- Bucky Larson: Born to Be a Star (R) 2:10, 7:40
- Warrior (PG-13) 11:35, 2:40, 6:00, 9:10
- The Debt (R) 11:00, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:35
- Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 11:20, 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:50
- Don't Be Afraid of the Dark (R) 11:55, 2:35, 5:05, 7:55, 10:35
- AMC Independent One Day (PG-13) 11:05, 1:55, 4:35, 7:20, 9:55
- Crazy, Stupid, Love. (PG-13) 11:10, 2:05, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40
- Colombiana (PG-13) 11:40, 2:15, 5:00, 7:55, 10:30
- The Help (PG-13) 11:50, 3:10, 6:40, 10:00

SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC)

7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #2309

- Apollo 18 (PG-13) 8:20, 10:40
- Shark Night 3D (PG-13) 12:30, 2:55, 5:15, 7:55, 10:25
- Drive (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
- Our Idiot Brother (R) 1:35, 6:45
- I Don't Know How She Does It (PG-13) 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:35
- AMC Independent Fordson: Faith, Fasting, Football (NR) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40
- Contagion (PG-13) 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30
- Contagion: The IMAX Experience (PG-13) 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 11:00
- The Lion King 3D (G) 3:55, 6:30, 9:05
- Spy Kids: All the Time in the World in 4D (PG) 12:45, 3:15, 5:50
- AMC Independent Kevin Hart: Laugh at My Pain (R) 12:05, 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:50
- Straw Dogs (R) 12:00, 2:35, 5:25, 8:15, 11:00
- Captain America: The First Avenger (PG-13) 4:20, 10:20
- The Lion King (G) 1:20 P.M.
- Bucky Larson: Born to Be a Star (R) 4:05, 9:15
- Warrior (PG-13) 12:10, 3:40, 7:10, 10:30
- The Debt (R) 1:40, 4:45, 7:40, 10:35
- Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 1:10, 3:55, 6:50, 9:50
- Don't Be Afraid of the Dark (R) 12:15, 2:45, 5:30, 8:05, 10:45
- Crazy, Stupid, Love. (PG-13) 1:25, 7:25
- Colombiana (PG-13) 12:40, 3:35, 6:30, 9:25
- The Help (PG-13) 12:00, 3:20, 7:20, 10:55

WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1641

- Warrior (PG-13) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:15
- The Debt (R) 12:45, 3:30, 6:10, 9:10
- Crazy, Stupid, Love. (PG-13) 1:00, 6:20
- The Help (PG-13) 12:40, 4:05, 7:20, 10:30
- Our Idiot Brother (R) (Sneak Preview) 3:50, 9:20
- Colombiana (PG-13) 9:15
- Straw Dogs (R) 12:20, 3:00, 5:30, 8:10, 10:40
- I Don't Know How She Does It (PG-13) 12:00, 1:20, 2:30, 5:00, 6:40, 7:30, 10:00
- Contagion (PG-13) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
- Drive (R) 12:50, 3:10, 4:00, 5:40, 8:00, 9:30, 10:20
- The Lion King 3D (G) 12:30, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:00
- Moneyball (PG-13) Advance Tickets Available
- Killer Elite (R) Advance Tickets Available
- The Lion King (G) 2:10, 4:30, 7:00

SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)

E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1646

- The Smurfs (PG) 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50
- Apollo 18 (PG-13) 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:40, 9:55
- Shark Night 3D (PG-13) 2:15, 4:35, 6:50, 9:10
- Drive (R) 2:20, 4:50, 7:25, 9:50
- Contagion (PG-13) 2:30, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05
- The Lion King 3D (G) 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
- Spy Kids: All the Time in the World in 4D (PG) 2:05, 4:25
- AMC Independent Kevin Hart: Laugh at My Pain (R) 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
- Straw Dogs (R) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35
- The Lion King (G) 1:50 P.M.
- Bucky Larson: Born to Be a Star (R) 6:45, 9:15
- Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
- Final Destination 5 3D (R) 4:10, 6:35, 8:55
- Don't Be Afraid of the Dark (R) 2:50, 5:20, 7:45, 10:15
- Colombiana (PG-13) 1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40
- The Help (PG-13) 3:05, 6:15, 9:25

SHOWPLACE CICERO 14 (AMC)

4779 W. Cermak, Cicero
(800) 326-3264 #1644

- Apollo 18 (PG-13) 6:20, 8:30, 10:35
- Shark Night 3D (PG-13) 1:30, 3:45, 6:05, 8:20, 10:30
- Drive (R) 12:00, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
- Saving Private Pérez (PG-13) 2:05, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10
- I Don't Know How She Does It (PG-13) 1:00, 3:10, 5:25, 7:30, 9:45
- Final Destination 5 (R) 1:35, 3:50, 6:10, 8:25, 10:40
- Contagion (PG-13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
- The Lion King 3D (G) 4:15, 6:45, 9:15
- Spy Kids: All the Time in the World in 4D (PG) 2:00, 4:10
- AMC Independent Kevin Hart: Laugh at My Pain (R) 1:05, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:15
- Straw Dogs (R) 12:05, 2:40, 5:20, 8:05, 10:50
- The Lion King (G) 1:50 P.M.
- Bucky Larson: Born to Be a Star (R) 12:10, 2:30, 4:50
- Warrior (PG-13) 2:35, 5:35, 8:50
- Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 7:20, 9:55
- Don't Be Afraid of the Dark (R) 12:55, 3:25, 5:50, 8:15, 10:45
- Colombiana (PG-13) 1:55, 4:25, 7:00, 9:40

SHOWPLACE ICON AT ROOSEVELT COLLECTION

Clark & Roosevelt, South Loop, Chicago
(312) 564-2104

- The Lion King (G) ♦ 1:40, 4:15
- Straw Dogs (R) ♦ 1:50, 4:50, 6:40, 7:50, 9:20, 10:30
- Bucky Larson: Born to Be a Star (R) ♦ 11:15 P.M.
- Warrior (PG-13) ♦ 1:10, 4:20, 7:30, 10:40
- Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 2:15, 5:10, 8:00, 11:00
- Contagion (PG-13) ♦ 1:30, 2:30, 4:10, 5:15, 7:10, 8:10, 10:00, 10:50
- The Help (PG-13) 2:40, 6:10, 9:30
- Crazy, Stupid, Love. (PG-13) 12:50, 3:45, 6:50, 9:40
- The Debt (R) 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 10:10
- Colombiana (PG-13) 1:45, 4:40, 7:40, 10:20
- Drive (R) ♦ 12:40, 2:10, 3:20, 4:45, 6:00, 7:45, 8:30, 10:45, 11:10
- The Lion King 3D (G) ♦ 1:00, 2:20, 3:40, 5:00, 6:20, 7:20, 8:45, 9:50
- I Don't Know How She Does It (PG-13) ♦ 1:20, 2:00, 3:50, 4:30, 6:30, 7:15, 9:00, 9:45, 11:20

VIP Premium 21+

- Drive (R) ♦ VIP Premium 21+ 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:30, 11:10
- I Don't Know How She Does It (PG-13) ♦ VIP Premium 21+ 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45

OAK PARK LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)

1022 Lake Street, Oak Park
(630) 444-FILM #560

- Drive (R) ♦ 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
- The Interrupters (R) 3:50, 6:50, 9:50
- Contagion (PG-13) ♦ 12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35
- The Lion King 3D (G) ♦ 12:20, 2:35, 4:40, 6:45, 8:50
- The Lion King (G) ♦ 1:45
- Warrior (PG-13) ♦ 1:20, 4:20, 8:00
- The Debt (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
- The Help (PG-13) 12:30, 3:35, 6:40, 9:45

EVANSTON CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)

1715 Maple Ave., Evanston
(847) 492-0123

- Bucky Larson: Born to Be a Star (R) ♦ 11:30 A.M.
- Colombiana (PG-13) ♦ 8:15 P.M.
- Contagion (PG-13) ♦ 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
- Contagion (PG-13) ♦ 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10
- Crazy, Stupid, Love. (PG-13) ♦ 11:35, 2:25, 5:05
- Drive (R) ♦ 11:30, 12:45, 2:10, 3:20, 4:45, 5:55, 7:20, 8:30, 9:55
- Higher Ground (R) 11:45, 2:25, 5:05, 7:45, 10:30
- I Don't Know How She Does It (PG-13) ♦ 12:30, 2:55, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50
- Midnight in Paris (PG-13) 11:20, 4:00, 8:25
- Our Idiot Brother (R) 1:40, 6:20
- Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) ♦ 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
- Sarah's Key (PG-13) 11:35, 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35
- Straw Dogs (R) ♦ 12:05, 2:50, 5:25, 8:05
- The Debt (R) 11:40, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00
- The Guard (R) 12:20, 2:45, 5:00, 7:35, 10:00
- The Help (PG-13) ♦ 12:40, 2:15, 3:55, 5:30, 7:10, 8:45, 10:25
- The Lion King (G) ♦ 12:00, 2:20
- The Lion King 3D (G) 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
- Warrior (PG-13) ♦ 11:25, 1:05, 2:35, 4:10, 5:35, 7:15, 8:40, 10:20

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2GETHER 4EVER

**Hold on to your hats:
Simon and Paula are back
in business for 'X Factor'**

By Dana Moran | REDEYE

Aww, Simon Cowell and Paula Abdul just couldn't live without each other. Or so we would have you believe. The "American Idol" frenemies are reunited for "The X Factor," which has its 2-hour premiere at 7 p.m. Wednesday, and our expectations are off the charts. From bonkers to boring, here are some scenarios of what might go down onstage and behind the judges' table—and our guesses of the odds they will happen. DAMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM

45%

Chance one of the under-age contestants—who, according to show rules, can be as young as 12—shows up in massively inappropriate attire. This isn't that Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders reality show, ladies.

100%

Chance even FEWER people will recognize Steve Jones, the show's host, than L.A. Reid. We have no clue who he is either.

60%

Chance judge and former Pussycat Doll Nicole Scherzinger will request to drink Diet Pepsi from her giant product-placement cup rather than regular Pepsi. Um, calories!

90%

Chance Simon insults a contestant nearly to the point of tears

50%

Chance Paula calls out Simon for his comments to GQ about wanting to hook up with her and never talk about it again

20%

Chance Paula calls out Simon, but her sentences are so slurred that we don't realize what's going on

36%

Chance judge and record exec L.A. Reid starts getting miffed because contestants don't recognize his face. Seriously dude, you're sitting by Simon Cowell!



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Winning!

The numbers are in—and Americans still love Charlie Sheen. But do they love Ashton Kutcher more in “Two and a Half Men”? Here are the digits, according to thr.com.



27.7 MILLION

Viewers for “Two and a Half Men,” the biggest audience in the show’s history and more than double what the 2010 season opener drew **CBS PHOTO**

6.4 MILLION

Viewers for Comedy Central’s roast of Sheen, the best performance of any of the network’s roasts



5 MILLION

Viewers for the series premiere of “The Playboy Club,” which is set and filmed in Chicago. Too soon to call it a bomb? **NBC PHOTO**

“I’D LIKE TO BE MAKING BABIES BUT I’M NOT, SO I’M MAKING MOVIES.”

—Ryan Gosling to the Times of London, on what would make him retire, according to the A.V. Club



LOS ANGELES TIMES FILE



Stockman and Michele
GETTY IMAGES FILE



Engaged or not?

Sounds like a certain couple needs to have a heart-to-heart. A day after a

rep for Ne-Yo’s girlfriend told usmagazine.com they were engaged and expecting a second baby, a rep for Ne-Yo on Tuesday told the gossip site they are in fact not engaged—though they still are expecting that second kid. So. Painfully. Awkward.

Living single

Forgive us if we’re envisioning “Glee” star Lea Michele belting out Beyoncé’s “Single Ladies”—the actress and boyfriend Theo Stockman have split, a rep confirmed to eonline.com.



Pandoraland

Pretty soon, “Avatar” fans won’t have to leave the planet to visit a whole new world of Pandora (left). Disney announced it’s opening a themed “land” at Disney World based on the 2009

movie, thr.com reports. Construction on the project isn’t expected to start until 2013, giving visitors plenty of time to learn Na’vi. Director James Cameron also has two more flicks planned in the series for Christmas 2014 and 2015.

Chaz hands

Well, look at that—transgender contestant Chaz Bono (right), a lightning rod of controversy when the cast was announced, survived the first elimination Tuesday on “Dancing With the Stars.” Meta World Peace, the NBA star formerly known as Ron Artest, was the first dancer to get the hook. Now if only there were an NBA season for him to get ready for ...



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